



Bar Hill Community Association (BHCA)
c/o Bar Hill Parish Council
Hanover Close
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8EH

Chair of Trustees Report 2023 to 2024

Introduction:

This report summarises the activities and achievements of the Bar Hill Community Association (registered charity number 1195382). Our charitable objectives are:

TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF BAR HILL VILLAGE, SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.

We are proud of what we have accomplished over the period and are excited about the opportunities ahead. In this report, we will provide a brief overview of our key activities and accomplishments, our financial situation and the impact we have had on our community.

Highlights:

During the past year, we have continued to print and deliver the Bar Hill News monthly (with our traditional annual break in January). Despite a very challenging advertising landscape in the last year, local businesses' advertising within the magazine has remained a vital source of income for the Association. Unfortunately, costs associated with printing the magazine have increased by about 20%. The magazine does, however, remain profitable, although it is generating less income for the association than in previous years.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those advertisers who have supported us and without whom our magazine would not be possible. I'd also like to thank those who contribute regular monthly columns from the local organisations within the village, especially Liz Dams and Bridget Wilson, who provide monthly features and Hilary Whipp, who manages our advertising, and our small army of deliverers who get out in the month (rain or shine!) to make sure everyone gets their copy.





In addition to the magazine, the Association is responsible for the Fête & Festival, which will be held on Saturday, July 13th, this year (starting at 2 p.m.). Last year's fete was very successful, and I'd like to thank Kate Bennett, who led the committee, as well as Graeme Hinchliffe, Delia Callaghan, Geoff Caswell, who formed the rest of the committee as well as everyone who helped out on the day. The same committee is planning this year's event and would welcome more volunteers. The more the merrier!

In a similar vein, we also organised the Christmas Event last year. Thanks to Specsavers, Vets4Pets, and Bar Hill Motors for sponsoring last year's event. They made a difference by allowing us to hold the event at all! I'd like to thank Laura Chapman and Barry Dean for their work towards last year's event - despite the on-again, off-again nature! Anthony

Mitchell will be taking over organising this year's event which will be in conjunction with the Bar Hill Community Market on Saturday, the 7th of December.

Jenni Foster-Smith leads our Parks & Recreation committee (with Anthony Mitchell from the Parish Council) on upgrading the village's Children's playground. In the past year, parents in the village selected a new design available on our website:

<https://www.barhill-ca.org/activities/parks-and-recreation>. We are now working with the Parish Council on obtaining grants to fund the upgrade.



When setting up the charity, we always intended to support other groups and activities within the village. Over the last year, we have contributed to replacing the sleepers in the Memorial Garden and donated to allow the Bobby Scheme to continue its work with crime victims.

This year, we have also set new committees around the introduction (re-introduction?!) of a Phone Box library to the village, helping the library with the Europe Challenge event, and working with our guests in the hotel, Bar Hill Library, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and the ramblers association for our Wellbeing Walks. We are very keen to expand the work of the Association, so if there is anything you'd like us to be involved with, please let me know: chair-of-trustees@barhill-ca.org.

Conclusions:

Like most organisations, funding for our work is an ongoing issue. We currently lack a fundraiser and the capacity to apply for each grant we could access. Lack of capacity has been challenging over the last year and will undoubtedly be challenging for the foreseeable future.

It is not just the financial challenges we face; the other main challenge is that we are increasingly reliant on a vanishingly small number of volunteers. Without more volunteers coming forward, the amount we can do will decrease as people go on to other things. In an ideal world, we could offer volunteers the opportunities they are passionate about. To do that, we need more volunteers!

In the upcoming year, we hope to engage with local businesses. We believe that if they donate company time for a staff member to volunteer with us, HMRC will offset the cost against the company's taxable profits!

Yours Sincerely,



Andy Pellew (Bar Hill News Editor & Chair of Trustees)
On behalf of the Bar Hill Community Association
chair-of-trustees@barhill-ca.org - 07814 871 752

